



EVELYN SANGUINETTI

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
STATE OF ILLINOIS

November 20, 2015

Ms. Amy Blair
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Kansas City District, Room 529
601 E. 12th Street
Kansas City, MO 64106

Re: Scott Air Force Base (AFB) (St. Clair County)/MidAmerica St. Louis Airport
Belleville/Mascoutah, Illinois
National Geospatial Intelligence Agency (NGA)
Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

Dear Ms. Blair:

I write to pledge my full support for the St. Clair County/Scott Air Force Base site proposed to be the location for the new National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency's western headquarters. The site presents clear benefits not only for the region and the entire State of Illinois, but also for enhancing the capabilities of Scott Air Force Base (AFB), one of Illinois' most important military assets.

I serve as Chairwoman of the Interagency Military Base Support and Economic Development Committee, which coordinates the State's activities on and to act as a communication center for issues relating to current and former military bases in the State of Illinois. The Committee also advocates for retaining and growing the state's military bases and their surrounding communities, as they are a critical part of our economy and Illinois family. Recent analysis shows that the military and the defense industry directly and indirectly contribute nearly 150,000 jobs and \$13.3 billion in economic activity across Illinois. This represents nearly 2 percent of the state's gross domestic product (GDP).

Scott AFB is one of Illinois' 3 active military installations. The base contributes \$3.5 billion to Illinois' GDP, supporting almost 33,000 statewide jobs. It is operated by the 375th Air Mobility Wing, and tenants include US TRANSCOM, Air Mobility Command, 18th Air Force, 618th Air and Space Operations Center, 932nd Airlift Wing, 126th Air Refueling Wing, Air Force Network Integration Center, Defense Information Systems Agency, and the Surface Deployment and Distribution Command. A western geospatial capability would be at home, and more secure, among these critical military support functions.

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Because the state and surrounding communities support Scott AFB, it enjoys a strong supportive local regulatory environment, which protects the base's airspace, provides for base expansion without encroachment, and allows Scott AFB the greatest flexibility to carry out its military mission. In addition to a number of robust community collaborations, certainly the leaders of St. Clair County, who are responsible for this compelling proposal to the NGA, have an excellent symbiotic relationship with Scott AFB and are committed to its success. NGA would be welcomed with open arms and room to grow.

Scott AFB's future is bright. The base was recently awarded an Air Force cyber squadron, which will bring in 320 new jobs and \$16 million in infrastructure spending. NGA's employees would find the area a friendly and safe place to work; *The Air Force Times* ranked Scott AFB first among all bases for airmen and their families, based on regional criteria that includes, among other things, regional crime rates, housing costs, school quality, air pollution levels, and unemployment rates.

Winning the NGA-West campus would not only enhance the NGA's important mission, but would certainly also enhance Scott AFB's importance as a strategic defense asset. I urge the NGA to choose St. Clair County, and Scott AFB, for its new facility. Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Brian Costin, Policy Director, at brian.costin@illinois.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Evelyn Sanguinetti". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a small dot at the end of the last name.

Evelyn Sanguinetti
Illinois Lieutenant Governor

cc: Col. Laura L. Lenderman, 375th AMW Commander
Mark A. Kern, St. Clair County Board Chairman
Tim Cantwell, Director - MidAmerica St. Louis Airport